

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 3-4, 6-11 and 20-27 are now pending in the instant application. As reflected by the status of the claims presently submitted, it can be seen that only claim 20 is currently amended.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant takes this opportunity to note that an Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted concurrently with this Paper.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

With reference to 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a), the text of the Office Action provides the following: that (a) claims 3-4, 6 and 20 have been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,766,698 to Dallen, (b) claim 7 has been rejected on the basis of obviousness suggested by the combination of the '698 patent to Dallen in view of U.S. Patent 5,312,215 to Anquetin, and (c) claims 8-11 have been rejected on the basis of obviousness suggested by the combination of the '698 patent to Dallen in view of U.S. Patent 5,205,688 to Sundstrom.

As provided herein, Applicant has amended independent claim 20, and thereby claims 3-4 and 6-11 which depend therefrom, to provide that the longitudinal slot of the plug body is of a width that is "defined by portions of the plug body comprising respective series of contiguous and non-linear edges therealong". With this amendment, it is believed that the structure of the longitudinal slot, when considered in view of the remainder of claim 20, is stated such that it is patentably distinguishable over the singular or combined teachings of the applied references. Thus, in view of the claims as amended, it is kindly requested that the rejection(s) be withdrawn.


Conclusion

Applicant takes this opportunity to express appreciation for the prior indication of allowable subject matter as to claims 21-27.

Accordingly, it is believed that the instant application is, as currently presented, in condition for allowance, and such allowance is kindly requested.

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Respectfully,



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